

FINAL CAG Minutes for May Meeting
5/12/04

800 NE Oregon Ave., 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Minutes taken by Tom Chisolm, observer of CAG
Edited by Dorothy Shoemaker

Present at meeting:

Neighborhood Associations:

Robin Plance	(b) (6)	St. Johns
		Chair, Administrative committee coordinator

Business:

Rob DeGraff	(b) (6)	Business
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Steve Gunther	(b) (6)	
		Progressive Products and Services

Environment:

Joe Keating	(b) (6)	Education and Outreach coordinator
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Rhett Lawrence	rhett@ospirg.org	OSPIRG
Travis Williams	travis@willamette-riverkeeper.org	Willamette Riverkeeper

Health:

Jane Harris	jane@oregon-health.org	OCEH
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Recreation:

Bill Barrett	(b) (6)	Waterfront Org. of Oregon
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At-Large

Jim Robison	(b) (6)	
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Jackie Calder	(b) (6)	
Bill McNealy		

Excused absences:

Neighborhood Associations:

Peter Laughingwolf	(b) (6)	Cathedral Park
Larry Talbert	(b) (6)	Hi Noon
Cathy Crawford	(b) (6)	University Park

Environment:

Dorothy Shoemaker	(b) (6)	Sierra Club
		Evaluation committee coordinator, Board Secretary

Recreation:

Raquel Coyote	(b) (6)	Citizen
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Others present:

Tom Chisolm	Citizen and notetaker	(b) (6)
Jim Anderson	DEQ	Anderson.jim@deq.state.or.us
Sue Safford	Port of Portland	saffos@portptld.com
Judy Smith	EPA	smithjudy@epa.gov
Chip Humphrey	EPA	humphrey.chip@epa.gov
Regina Skarzinskas	Willamette-Riverkeeper	regina@tasllc.com
Barbara Smith	Lower Willamette Group	Barbara@harrisandsmith.com
Liz Waddell	DEQ	
Jeff Richards	Citizen	
Bob Wyatt	NW Natural	
Barbara Smith	Lower Willamette Group	Barbara@harrisandsmith.com

Robin Place called the meeting to order at 6:10. The next meeting is 9 June 6:00 800 Oregon St. Amanda is having a baby so Dave Stone will do building stuff for now. We wish Amanda well.

The Port of Portland had a hearing on the wall and attendance was sparse.

The tribes couldn't make it tonight. If you have questions for the tribes email them to Robin. He is working on rescheduling.

Bill B's group is primarily interested in the cleanup phase. They are moorage owners. He is uncertain of the value in continuing to attend CAG meetings.

Travis - There is value in being part of the process. Being involved will be helpful when we get to the cleanup phase.

Joe - Bill's group adds diversity

Bill B - his members are mostly downstream and are concerned the effluent from the cleanup could effect them. Some members can't afford to dredge because spoils are contaminated.

Consensus - Bills group is invited to present to the CAG with their concerns.

The June 19 retreat is canceled - we will look at rescheduling.

There were several comments regarding the minutes. In the interest of time forward comments to Steve so he can include them and the minutes can be approved at the next meeting.

Committees

Outreaching Joe - Oregon Wildlife Federation and Sierra Club are starting a letter

writing campaign to get Schnitzer to join the PRP. The CAG's approach should be to invite Schnitzer to a meeting to hear their side.

Jim attended a Linnton Neighborhood Assoc. meeting. Junk cars at Schnitzer blow up sometimes. We should try to get someone from Linton to join the CAG.

Joe – we want PRPs to sign the consent decree. It is up to them whether they join the LWG.

Steve & Joe – We should write a letter to companies asking why they haven't signed the consent decree.

Travis – The CAG doesn't have time to hassle PRPs. Let the Sierra Club do it.

Jim – Ongoing operations of PRPs may be more important than whether or not they signed consent decree.

Joe – letter-writing campaigns are good ways to involve citizens

Jackie – Companies should be good citizens

Travis – Does anyone know specifically about Schnitzer's operations?

Joe has a file on Schnitzer

Jim – People who work at companies have varying descriptions of their operations.

Barb – Would we like a presentation on the PRP search process?

Robin – probably yes

Jane – We need a strategic planning retreat.

Robin – Dorothy is not here but she wants the evaluation committee to meet.

Robin – Admin. committee. Rachel is looking into incorporation

Steve – The outreach committee needs to increase exposure and membership. Monthly information should go to the media.

Robin is meeting reporters from the Oregonian tomorrow.

Jim - We need to get the name of the reporter at the Oregonian covering the harbor cleanup and send him information.

Jane - We need to be on the community calendar.

Robin - His meeting with the Governor went well and media reports were mostly accurate.

Steve - wants to start a cost benefit committee

Rhett – Isn't that part of the evaluation committee?

Bill M - We need to produce results we can show to the public.

Travis - The comments we have provided to EPA have mostly come from other people. We should produce comments unique to us.

Jim - The goals produced at our last retreat need objectives.

Travis - Some goals are unclear. What does goal III mean?

Steve - Goal III is the heart of what we do.

Travis - Do we have a timeline to produce objectives for our goals?

Joe - We are here to blow a whistle if we find something wrong with the process, a valuable contribution.

Travis - It appears that we are often more interested in brand identity than impacting the process.

Jane - How do we better use Regina?

Steve – A goal could be to have the cleanup done in less than 20 years for less than

\$100,000,000

Robin - It's time for Regina's presentation

Travis - Lets have EPA talk about PRP identification instead of TMDL at the next meeting.

Consensus – On June 9 there will be a presentation on PRP identification.

Jackie 1) DEQ website has good info on upland sites 2) we need to write grants to get money.

Steve - I will help grant writing.

Steve - Motion to incorporate as nonprofit in Oregon.

Joe 2nd

Travis - This is a fundamental change

Joe - If we spend less than \$25K/ yr. regulations are minimal. 501c3 is more complex.

Robin - Incorporation makes us real to potential donors.

Steve - Incorporation lets us do more.

Jim - Moves to table motion.

Rhett - 2nd Allow Rachel to complete her assigned task of gathering information on incorporation.

Motion tabled

Regina - Begins talk on modeling and human health risk assessment – hydrodynamic modeling first.

Judy - Brought a big box of reports, which will go to Dorothy.

Barb - Will give us all CDs of the reports in the box.

Regina – The modeling has been delayed and will not be usable until early 2005. It will mostly be used in the feasibility study to study tradeoffs in remediation approaches such as capping vs. dredging. It will not be ready in time to help pick sampling locations. The consultants wisely picked EFDC as their hydrodynamic model because it was written at VIMS, the finest marine science institute in the world; furthermore John Hamrick who is really smart and a great teacher is helping them. EFDC is EPA approved. Three steps lead to application Calibration involves changing parameters so model results agree with measurements. Verification involves comparison of results with a separate dataset to confirm calibration. Sensitivity analysis involves variation of input parameters to see how sensitive the model is to parameters. Sensitivity analysis is particularly important when applying model in conditions different from calibration data, for example large floods. The consultants wrote a tech memo then EPA had comments on it. These comments are being addressed. To obtain good boundary conditions the model extends outside the study area.

Bob - Model cost will be > \$100K. They had planned to use the model to help pick sampling locations but EPA picked lots of sampling locations making the model unnecessary for this. However, it might help pick additional round 3 sampling locations.

The hydrodynamic model should be viewed in context of the variety of data resources and also the biologic and fate and transport models, which are quite different.

Bob NW Natural will do an early action to remove some tar at the GASCO site. The steps are 1) negotiate 2) investigate its characteristics 3) decide how to remove it. Right now we don't know what is beneath it or how thick it is. This project is fast track and they

hope to work this year between July and Oct. If they miss Oct there in another work window in Dec and Jan. The agreement is only 2 weeks old. Some stuff is on the web and more will be added. Early action was taken because the site is time critical. It is approximately 70' by 40' by unknown depth. This cleanup will not remove all of NWN's liability.